THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1886

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We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening; woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, or the family generally; public matters, current events, political questions and principles, etc.,—in short, any subject discussed in an all-round farm and family newspaper. Communications should be free from personalities and party abuse.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

The best things are ahead of us, not behind us. Only an atheist can logically be a pessimist. The movement of humanity under the rule of an all-wise, all-gracious, all mighty God, is forward, not backward—Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald.

SOME FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

The problem of problems in Southern agriculture is that of increasing and maintaining soil fertility. Our correspondent, Mr. Beavers, emphasizes the fact that farmers who wish to build up run-down farms must follow Nature's own methods.

Line upon line, precept upon precept. Nearly every week we publish some article calculated to deepen interest in stock-raising in the South. This week an article by Mr. D. A. Tompkins directs attention to the fact that "a good sized steer fattened for the market is worth the price of two bales of cotton even at the present high price of cotton, while the cost of raising and fattening one steer in the South is little more than the cost of producing one bale of cotton."

The seventeen-year locust is an interesting insect, and our readers would do well to file away Mr. Sherman's article regarding them for rereading when the creatures make their appearance a few weeks hence.

Don't overlook our fourth page puzzle, which will exercise your knowledge of North Carolina geography. We hope that a number of solutions will be sent in.

The first of the series of articles, which might appropriately be called "Recollections of Old Times," appears on page 4 this week. Let us have a large number of these letters.

That there are a number of other people who share Bro. Dickey's views on the money question, we are strongly inclined to believe. "Money," he says, "is the ruination of this worl'; but des at dis time I must say plain, dat I is pufflckly willin' ter be ruint fer de balance er my days!"

The road question is at the front again, if we are to judge by the letters in our Correspondence Department. It is true that one can hardly travel a mile over an average country road without finding all the laws of drainage openly defied, and it is easy to believe that in this respect there is the greatest room for improvement, as Mr. Barbrey—from whom we are glad to hear again—points out.

One of our correspondents suggests a road tax of fifty cents on each hundred dollars' worth of property and fifty cents on the poll. It will be remembered that the Constitution provides that the poll tax shall equal that on $300 worth of property.

THE STATE FAIR AND THE MIDWAY.

"The Midway is to be purged of all indecent shows."

So says the Raleigh correspondent of the Charlotte Observer, speaking of the recent meeting of the executive committee of the State Fair. We hope that the pledge means something. To have again such a carnival of filth and vulgarity as was witnessed last year would surely cause thousands who have accepted in good faith the promises of reform to lose all confidence and interest in the institution. But Secretary Pogue, we believe, has this matter in hand, and he promises better things. Last year, it was said, the vile shows laid claims to decency, and were admitted on that testimony. Such an excuse will not be again accepted, and the committe named for the purpose of cleaning off the filth that gains entrance by deception, will be expected to discharge its duties promptly and faithfully.

THE CONGRESSIONAL "FREE SEED" DISTRIBUTION.

We do not think that the late J. Sterling Morton made a specially brilliant record as Secretary of Agriculture, but he was thoroughly right in his opposition to the Congressional free distribution of garden seed, and it is to be regretted that he did not succeed in crushing out this bit of humbuggery and paternalism. The distribution of seed of new varieties for experimental culture is commendable, but as at present conducted the free seed distribution is a farce. It will not be stamped out for a long time, however, because the average Congressman believes that a package of onion and kale seed sent by his secretary to Farmer Brown will cover a multitude of sins in Brown's view. Were it not for this belief, the scheme would be doomed. It is a great pity that the farmers did not give Mr. Morton sufficient support to enable him to win his fight.

WHAT IS AN EDUCATED MAN?

No other recent event in educational circles has attracted so much attention as the installation of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler as the successor of Seth Low in the presidency of Columbia University. And this reminds us that Dr. Butler some time ago, discussing the question, "What is an educated man?" proposed the following five tests by which the truly educated man is distinguished:

"Correctness and precision in the use of the mother tongue.

"Those refined and gentle manners which are the expression of fixed habits of thought and of action.

"The power and habit of reflection.

"The power of intellectual growth.

"Efficiency, the power to do."

There is many a college graduate who cannot pass this examination.

OKLAHOMA

That is an interesting article which a former citizen of North Carolina sends us regarding the Territory of Oklahoma, and we publish it with pleasure. We noticed in the press dispatches last week that it was then just thirteen years since the first of its lands were opened to white settlers. It now comprises 23 counties and has a population of half a million.

It will be remembered that the proper Congressional committee has acted favorably on a resolution providing for the admission to statehood of Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico. Commenting on this, the Philadelphia Public Ledger says:

"The youngest, Oklahoma, is the best prepared for statehood. The population of Oklahoma is 80,000 more than that of New Mexico and Arizona combined. It is a homogeneous population, too, living in well-built towns. Oklahoma's population is made up of vigorous Western people who brought with them an ardent belief in the school and the savings bank. They are thrifty and energetic. They have built up towns and cities. The latter term is elastic in the Southwest, but there are cities in Oklahoma of ten thousand inhabitants, which population is nearer urban dignity than that of some communities of that section that have more prestige. Oklahoma, last year, had 114,736 children on its school rolls, of whom the average attendance was 85,635. There were 295 students in the University, exclusive of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, which had 366. There are two normal schools, one of which had at the date of the latest report 353 students. There are more than nine hundred church organizations in the Territory. Such a 'Territory' is certainly a State in all the essentials of civic qualification."

AN APOSTLE OF NARROWNESS.

It is a great pity when a preacher whose position enables him to speak to a hundred or more attentive hearers every Sunday, fails to uplift, strengthen, or encourage them; it is a greater pity that a man whose writings are read by thousands and perhaps tens of thousands every week should use his pen in behalf of narrowing influences. Poor old Bill Arp with his sectional and partisan bitterness—what good might not a broad-minded, progressive, representative of the Newer South (an Aycock, for instance, with his belief in education, industrial progress, and a re-united country) accomplish in Bill Arp's place!

LEE AND LINCOLN.

We have for some time been of the opinion that Lee and Lincoln were the noblest figures of our Civil War history—Lee the peerless soldier, without fear and without reproach, as pure as he was brave, "the very greatest of all the captains that the English-speaking peoples have brought forth," as President Roosevelt says; Lincoln, the poor boy who broke his birth's invidious bar and struggled upward till he became the pillar of a nation's hope, "with malice toward none but with charity for all" striving on with his great work, which would doubtless have ended with much less harshness toward the South had he lived to complete it.

We believe that the entire country, North and South, is coming steadily to this estimate of these men. We are reminded of the matter now by the fact that one of the most striking incidents of the recent Athens Conference for Education in the South was the prolonged applause from Northerners and Southerners which greeted Dr. Hamilton W. Mabie's declaration that he hoped to see the day when the North would put statues of Lee and Jackson beside those of Lincoln and Grant and when the bronze figure of Abraham Lincoln ("the man who had the hard task of ruling a divided people, but who loved the South") would be seen in the cities of the old Confederacy.

The recent disclosures as to American cruelty in the Philippines are very discreditable to our government. And it will be doubly discreditable to the administration if the guilty parties are not hunted out and properly punished.

THREE NOTABLE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES.

Dr. Hamilton W. Mabie, in the Ladies' Home Journal strongly recommends two recent autobiographies—Jacob A. Riis's "The Making of an American" and Booker Washington's "Up from Slavery." Both of these are as interesting as novels, and truthful and helpful as well. Another autobiographical work of great merit is John S. Wise's "The End of an Era." If you are thinking of buying a novel, buy one of these books instead, and you will find as much to interest you, while you will get a clearer insight into some subject worth knowing about—Riis's hearty, hopeful struggle against difficulties and his great work for the poor of New York City; Wise's equally delightful reminiscences of the Civil War and the period just preceding it, or the rise of Booker Washington from slavery to the leadership of his race.

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC QUARTERLY.

The second number of the South Atlantic Quarterly, (published by Dr. John S. Bassett, Durham, N. C.,) is before us. The first article is by the editor, a thoughtful discussion of "why there is not a more vital literary activity in the South." Dr. Kilgo contributes a forceful paper on "The Christian Basis of Citizenship," from which we have clipped a number of the most striking paragraphs. "The Reconstruction of Southern Literary Thought" is the problem handled by Henry N. Snyder. Dr. Wm. E. Dodd, in a paper that will doubtless attract attention, gives some unpleasant facts and figures as to North Carolina's Revolutionary record—"the almost shameful lethargy of North Carolina," as he puts it, "during the long period of 1777 to 1780." The book reviews are interesting, the best being that in which "The Leopard's Spots" is accurately weighed in the balance. These articles, with others that might be named, make this a very attractive number. "The South Atlantic Quarterly" is a really creditable publication, and deserves the support of all interested in Southern literature. The subscription price is $2 a year.

A PARTING WORD TO EMIGRANTS.

It is said that a great many people are leaving North Carolina just now for the newer lands of the West. We have recently published several State News items to this effect. One of these items, published two weeks ago, concluded with this sentence: "After they have tried the West, they realize what a great old State they have left." All of which reminds us quite forcibly of a poem of Sidney Lanier's that we stumbled upon a week or so ago when looking up selections for our series of great poems. This particular bit of verse was written in Georgia nearly thirty years ago, but it is in every way as applicable to North Carolina conditions in 1902 as it was to Georgia conditions in the '70's. And we hasten to say that the poem is intended especially for farmers, and we hope that those of them who make it a rule to read nothing that rhymes will break their rule for once. The poem follows:

THAR'S MORE IN THE LAND THAN THAR IS IN THE MAN.

I knowed a man, which he lived in Jones,
Which Jones is a county of red hills and stones,
And he lived pretty much by gittin' of loans,
And his mules was nothin' but skin and bones,
And his hogs was flat as his corn-bread pones,
And he had 'bout a thousand acres o' land.

This man—which his name it was also Jones—
He swore that he'd leave them old red hills and stones,
Fur he couldn't make nothin' but yallerish cotton,
And little o' *that*, and his fences was rotten,
And what little corn he had, *hit* was boughten
And dinged ef a livin' was in the land.

And the longer he swore the madder he got,
And he riz and he walked to the stable lot,
And he hollered to Tom to come thar and hitch
Fur to emigrate somewhar whar land was rich,
And to quit raisin' cock-burrs, thistles and sich,
And a wastin' ther time on the cussed land.

So him and Tom they hitched up the mules,
Pertestin that folks was mighty big fools
That 'ud stay in Georgy ther life time out,
Just scratchin' a livin', when all of 'em mought
Git places in Texas where cotton would sprout
By the time you could plant it in the land.

And he driv by a house whar a man named Brown
Was a livin', not fur from the edge o' town,
And he bantered Brown fer to buy his place,
And he said that bein' as money was scace,
And bein' as sheriffs was hard to face,
Two dollars an acre would git the land.

They closed at a dollar and fifty cents,
And Jones he bought him a waggin' and tents,
And loaded his corn, and his wimmen and truck,
And moved to Texas, which it tuck
His entire pile, with the best of luck,
To git thar and git him a little land.

But Brown moved out on the old Jones' farm,
And he rolled up his breeches and bared his arm,
And he picked all the rocks from off 'n the groun',
And he rooted it up and he plowed it down,
Then he sowed his corn and his wheat in the land.

Five years glid by, and Brown, one day
(Which he'd got so fat that he wouldn't weigh),
Was a sittin' down, sorter lazily,
To the bulliest dinner you ever see,
When one of the children jumped on his knee
And says, "Yan's Jones, which you bought his land."

And thar was Jones, standin' out at the fence,
And he had no waggin', nor mules, nor tents,
Fur he had left Texas afoot and cum
To Georgy to see if he couldn't git sum
Employment, and he was lookin' as hum-
Ble as if he had never owned any land.

But Brown he asked him in and he sot
Him down to his vittles smokin' hot,
And when he had filled hisself and the floor
Brown looked at him sharp and riz and swore
That "whether men's land was rich or poor
Thar was more in the *man* than thar was in the *land*."

Life is not so short but there is always time enough for courtesy.—Emerson.

LOAFING.

Harry Farmer talks of the evils of loafing, and he doesn't paint the picture half so dark as he might truthfully have done. We hope that nothing that we have said in regard to the value of an occasional "day off" has been construed by any one as a defense of loafing even for one working day in the year. Simple loafing is always more destructive and more tiresome than any kind of hard work. The only time to take a day off is when you can spend it learning something of the things away from home, renewing old friendships, or engaging in some manly form of recreation that will enable you to return to work with renewed strength and courage. As for the boy or man who makes a practice of idling around the post-office, store, or street-corner, he should put on the roads, with other tramps.

The Biblical Recorder reports that there have been thirty-two "accidents" on the S. A. L. Railway since January 1st. There is a strong popular demand for an explanation of this chronic condition of affairs. The Corporation Commission would do the traveling public a great favor by looking into the matter.

The Thinkers.

THE EDUCATION OF THE CITIZEN.

There have been in this world great men. They have had great thoughts, and have uttered these great thoughts. They live, in some sense immortal, in these great thoughts. The world's true history is its intellectual history, and its intellectual history has been written by its great leaders. If you ask what Palestine was, you look to its prophets; if you ask what Greece was, you look to its poets and its philosophers; if you ask what Rome was, you look to its great statesmen and jurists; if you ask what Italy was, you think of Dante; of England, you think of Shakespeare; of France, you think of Rousseau or Voltaire or Victor Hugo. The great men of past ages have done great thinking, and their thoughts live in literature. The good citizen, he who is to have the power to direct or participate in dissecting the destinies of a great nation, must know something of men. A book is not a dead thing, it is a living man. A library is not a mausoleum, it is the abode of the living. We go into our library and ask, now Milton, now Shakespeare, now Dante, now Homer, now Plato, now Aristotle, to talk to us. All the wise men of the world are on the these shelves; wiser than they were when they lived, for now they are wise enough to speak when you want them to speak, and wise enough to keep silent when you want them to keep silent. The educated man, the voter, or the wife who will influence the voter, needs to know the great thoughts of the great thinkers. He needs to know literature.

And what in all these departments he needs to know is not the external, but what the philosophers call the subjective—what I will call the vital. He needs to know, not names of books, but the spirit in the books; not the dates of history, but the trend of events in history; not the mere natural forces, but their expression and their co-ordination and their co-operation; not the names of boundaries and States, but what various countries, especially what his own country and its immediate neighbors, stand for; not mere alphabet and words, but how to use words so as to express the mind that is in him, and how to understand words so that he can comprehend the mind that is in another man. Thus the educated man must know language, geography, science, history, literature. And it is the function of the State to teach these things, because these things are necessary to make a good citizen of a State

Is there anything else? Certainly. Almost the first requisite of good citizenship is that the citizen shall be able to support himself. He may have large information, excellent ideas, good judgment; he may be a good talker; he may even be a good listener; but if he is dependent on the charity of the public he is not a good citizen. It is the function, therefore, of the free State to furnish such elements of education as will enable this man to be a self-supporting citizen of the United States. How far industrial education should go is a question which I do not undertake here to discuss. I doubt whether as yet we are ready to answer the question. But it should go far enough to make all graduates of public school systems able to give to the community in work at least as much as they have to take back from the community in wages. Industrial education, in this broad sense of the term, is a function of the State; not because it is the duty of the State to give to every or to any man a training for his profession but because it is the function of the State to prepare men for self-support. The difficulty with our systems of education thus far seems to me to be that we have paid too much attention to the higher education and too little to the broader education. We need to broaden it at the base even if we have to trim it a little at the top. For when all the education of a public school system tends towards literary proficiency, and when the boy or girl graduating from the school can do nothing but write school compositions, and the most proficient among them articles for newspapers, it is evident that the provision of self-support is not adequate.—Dr. Lyman Abbott, in "The Rights of Man."

THE "OGDEN MOVEMENT."

One of the most significant statements made by any Northern man in connection with the so-called "Ogden movement" for education in the South was contained in a short address by Dr. Albert Shaw, editor of the Review of Reviews, at the recent conference for Southern education in the city of Athens.

Dr. Shaw said that for years the government had been paying out about $140,000,000 annually on the pension account. He roughly estimated that of this sum the South contributed something like $50,000,000. This tax, he went on, was not a burden upon the North, for the money thus collected was now distributed among the Northern people and they received back again the bulk of it, both that which they contributed and that which the South contributed. And so the South has gone on from year to year, paying its part of the pension tax and receiving little in return, yet never grumbling. It seemed to *him*, therefore, a simple matter of justice that the South should receive something by way of compensation from the North, and it was in that spirit, he added, that these Northern philanthropists proposed to aid the South in bearing its burden of popular education.—Richmond Times.

A REFERENDUM IN CHICAGO.

The spring municipal election in Chicago afforded the first test of the new referendum law, under which questions of public policy may be submitted to popular vote when a number equal to 25 per cent. of the voters at the last general election present a petition for that purpose. The required number of voters had presented a petition asking that the question of the municipal ownership of street railways and of gas and electric light plants be submitted. The vote was about six to one in favor of municipal ownership of these public utilities. The vote is not mandatory upon the legislature or the city council, but is merely an expression of popular opinion.—Youth's Companion.

"All my people, black and white—God bless them."

These were the last words of Gen. Wade Hampton, save those sacred only to the inner circle of his family. It was a great utterance. It breathes the spirit of forgiveness. The old soldier who delivered his people from the horrors of reconstruction had seen them turn against him in a time of political upheaval. And yet his last utterance on earth is a prayer for them and for his enemies, their leaders. Again, Gen. Hampton, as his fathers before him, had been a large slave holder. He had fought most conspicuously in a great war that meant the perpetual enslavement of the negroes. He had freed his State from their domination under the leadership of unscrupulous white aliens. And yet he includes them as he breathes that last benediction, and furnishes a beautiful proof that the white man of the South is the black man's best friend.—Charlotte Observer.

The voice of the commencement orator will soon be heard in the land, and the school boy will be told again that the future lies before him. It's a kind of way the future has of lying.—Monroe Enquirer.